3. (AMENDED) A method according to claim 1, wherein said sequence is a sequence of k uniform colour pictures.

5. (AMENDED) A method according to claim 2, wherein the following additional steps are implemented after the steps (a) and (b):

(c) said second sequence is cut at a third switching point, in order to be replaced by the first one ;

(d) at said third switching point, additional pictures are similarly inserted until the first old picture to occur is an I picture, the first old sequence being then re-inserted.

7. (AMENDED) A method according to claim 1, wherein said old and new video sequences are bitstreams encoded according to the MPEG-2 standard.

8. (AMENDED) A decoding system for decoding n parallel video bitstreams corresponding to video sequences of pictures said intra if they have been coded without any reference to any other picture or said predicted or interpolated according to the fact that they are predicted by motion-compensated prediction from an earlier intra or predicted picture or bidirectionally interpolated from an earlier and a later picture, said system comprising a switching device that includes in cascade selecting means,

for the selection of the bitstream which has to be decoded, and decoding means for decoding said selected bitstream, wherein said selecting means comprise, in view of the implementation of a method according to claim 1, control means for a selective switchover of the bitstream which has to be decoded.

9. (AMENDED) In a decoding system for decoding n parallel video bitstreams corresponding to video sequences of pictures said intra if they have been coded without any reference to any other picture or said predicted or interpolated according to the fact that they are predicted by motion-compensated prediction from an earlier intra or predicted picture or bidirectionally interpolated from an earlier and a later picture, or in association with such a system, a switching device comprising selecting means provided for a selective switchover of the bitstream which has to be decoded according to a switching method such as described in claim 1.